Financial Year 1996-97 and raised a demand of additional tax of Rs. 209.00 crores. The MTNL contested the demand and filed and appeal before CIT (Appeals) which still pending. Since the case was pending before CIT (Appeals), MTNL did not pay the additional tax as demanded following a decision taken by the MTNL Board. Upon receiving the notice of IT Department for freezing the accounts, MTNL filed a writ petition in Hon'ble High Court of Delhi who on 29.3.2000 directed IT Department to lift the freeze immediately and MTNL to deposit an amount of Rs. 200 crores pending decision on the basic issue. The case of freezing of MTNL accounts came up for hearing in Hon'ble Delhi High Court on 6th of April but has been adjourned to 7th of July, 2000.

(c) No, Sir. The dispute exists between the Income Tax Department and MTNL a Public Sector Undertaking and the Ministries are not directly involved. However, Committee on Disputes under the Cabinet Secretariat is seized of the problem and its directions will be complied with.

Implications of Sankhya Vahini

4589. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of news-items "Giga-Deal in trouble" which was published in India Today of March 27, 2000;

(b) if so, whether security implications of the Sankhya Vahini projects has been properly studied and vetted by the DOT and other appropriate security agencies before the Cabinet approval;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The news item appeared in India Today of March 27, 2000.

(b) to (d) The Sankhya Vahini Project aims at setting up a high speed data backbone network in India. On security/monitoring related issues the Company will follow the prevailing regulations and terms & conditions as laid down in the Internet Service Provider (ISP) Licensing Agreement between the Licensing authority (for

ISPs) and ISPs in India, or any oilier orders issued by the Government of India from time to time. The Joint Venture will be subject to the same conditions of licensing and security regulations as are enforceable in respect of other operators operating in India.

Postal stamps on tourist areas

4590. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring out postal stamps on selected tourist areas in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) On the recommendation of the Philatelic Advisory Committee which advises the Department of Posts regarding issue of commemorative/ special stamps and other related matters, the Government has decided to bring out special stamps on the themes of Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage of the country. Under Cultural Heritage it has been further decided to bring out stamps on places of tourist interest in the country. This includes Andhra Pradesh also. During this year a set of stamps have been brought out to focus attention on the flora and fauna of the North East.

Enhancement of P&T facilities in Himachal Pradesh

†4591. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such places in Kangra, Kullu and Mandi districts of Himachal Pradesh having a post office, sub-post office and post offices run by a single employee;

(b) the names of such places in the said Districts wherein telephone and telegraph facilities arc available: and

(c) whether Government are considering a proposal to enhance such facilities; if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.